

ABSTRACT

The present inventors discovered that lectins recognize extremely small differences in sugar chain structures, and that by using this ability to recognize sugar chain structures, numerous sugar chain structures can be distinguished using the strong or weak interaction patterns of about ten types of lectins. Therefore, by reference to and use of control interaction data, in which large amounts of data on the interactions between sugar chains and lectins have been collected, the structures of subject sugar chains can be identified, estimated, and such with high accuracy .